MARVEL

#3

PARENTAL ADVISORY

FOOLKILLER™

BEMIS • TALAJIĆ • MARZAN JR. • MRVA

MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS...

FOOLKILLER

In his past, Greg Salinger was the murderous vigilante known as Foolkiller, punishing those who act immorally and commit foolish crimes. Now Greg is trying to lead a normal life as a psychologist for S.H.I.E.L.D., treating former costumed criminals who want to reform. But this put Greg in contact with the kind of men who trigger his violent tendencies, and eventually, one did. After he killed an entire squadron of neo-Nazis, Greg expected his S.H.I.E.L.D. supervisor, Gary, to arrest him, but instead Gary forgave him—what a perfect boss! But Greg's good mood won't last: someone's been watching Greg, and they sent a mysterious DVD that revealed that, as a young woman, his girlfriend was foolishly involved in a serious crime. Who would mess with Greg like that?

Writer	MAX BEMIS
Penciler	DALIBOR TALAJIĆ
Inker	JOSÉ MARZAN JR.
Colors	MIROSLAV MRVA
Lettering	VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM
Cover	DAVE JOHNSON
Variant Cover	PASQUAL FERRY & DAVE McCAIG
Assistant Editor	KATHLEEN WISNESKI
Editors	DARREN SHAN & JORDAN D. WHITE
Editor in Chief	AXEL ALONSO
Chief Creative Officer	JOE QUESADA
Publisher	DAN BUCKLEY
Executive Producer	ALAN FINE

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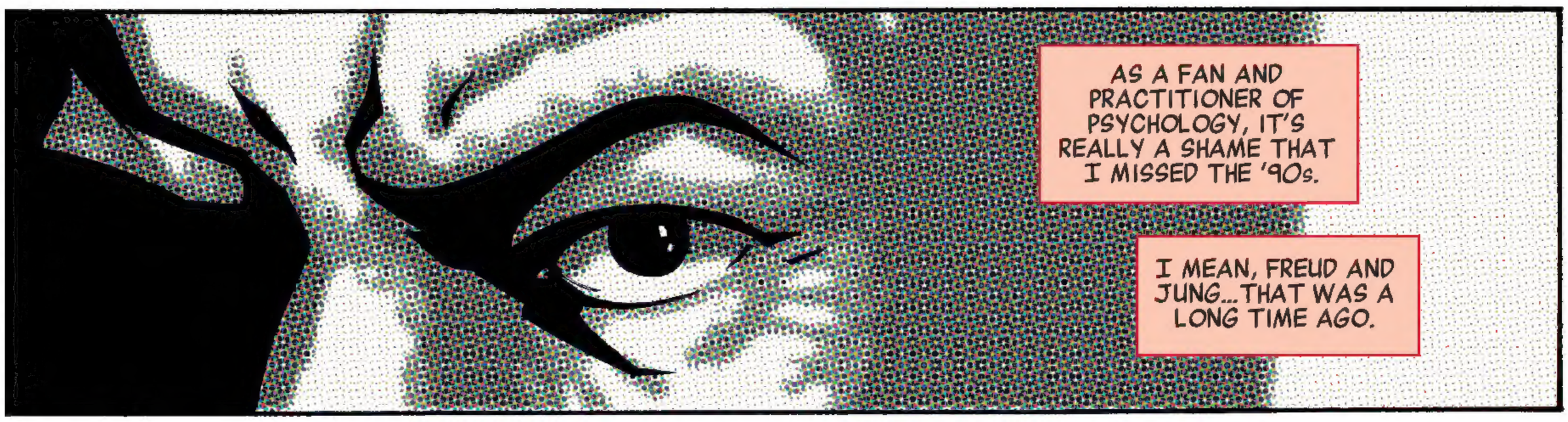
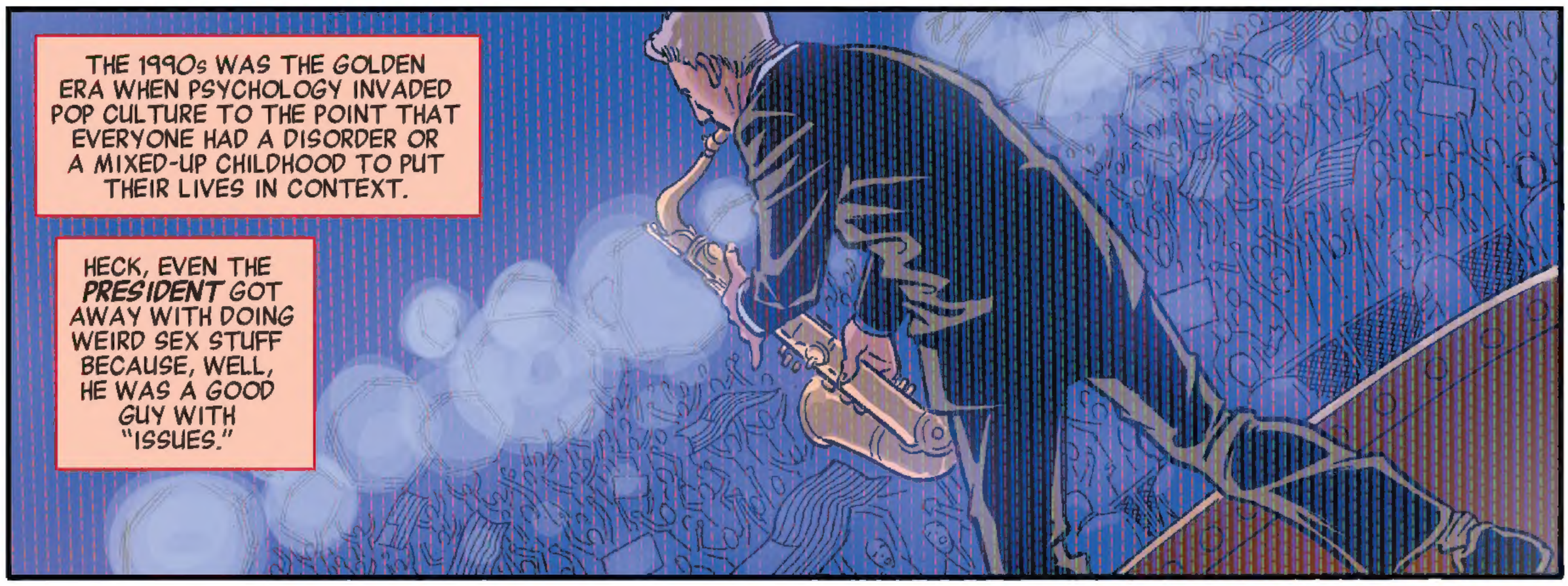
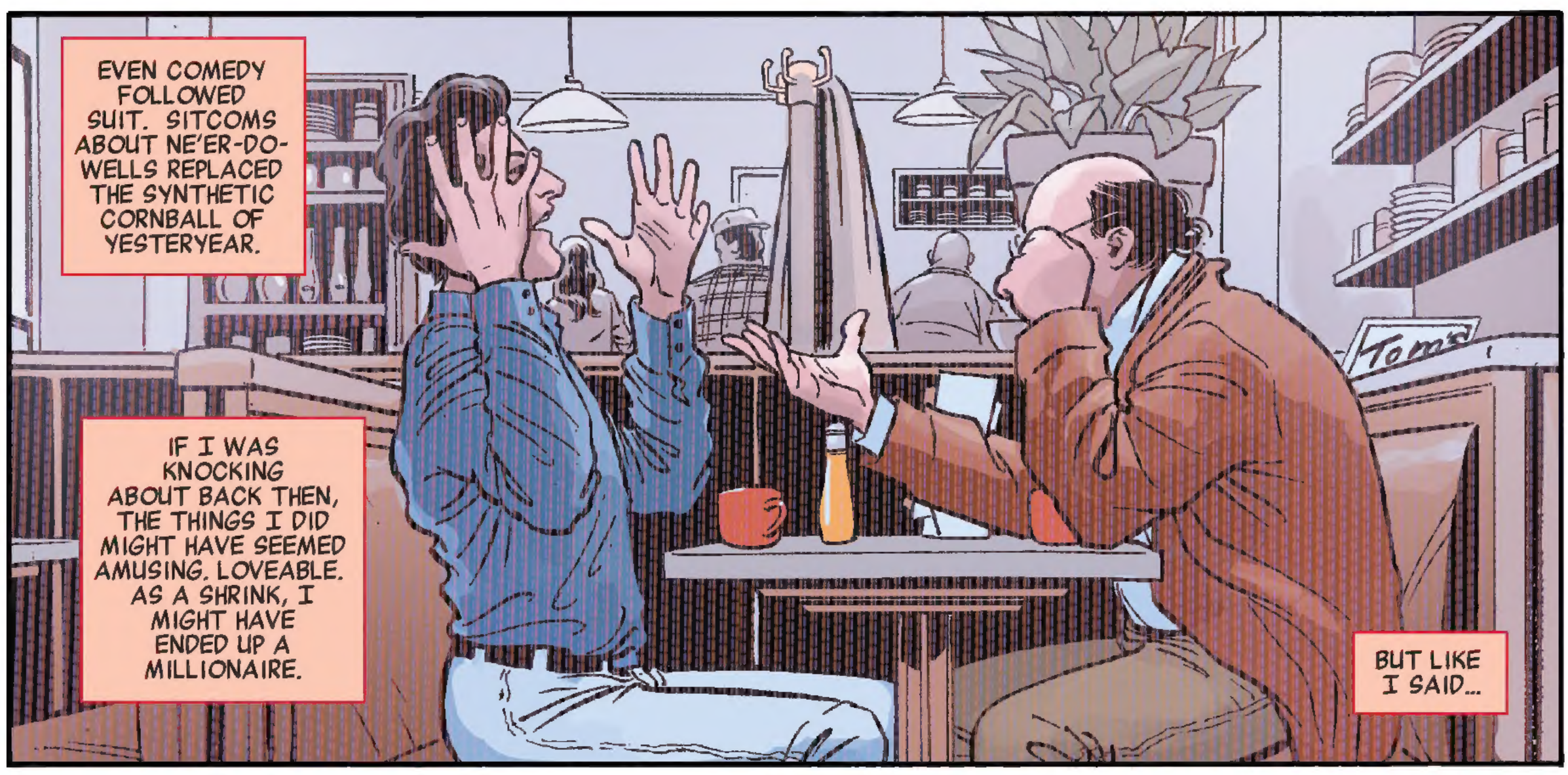

AS A FAN AND PRACTITIONER OF PSYCHOLOGY, IT'S REALLY A SHAME THAT I MISSED THE '90s.
I MEAN, FREUD AND JUNG...THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

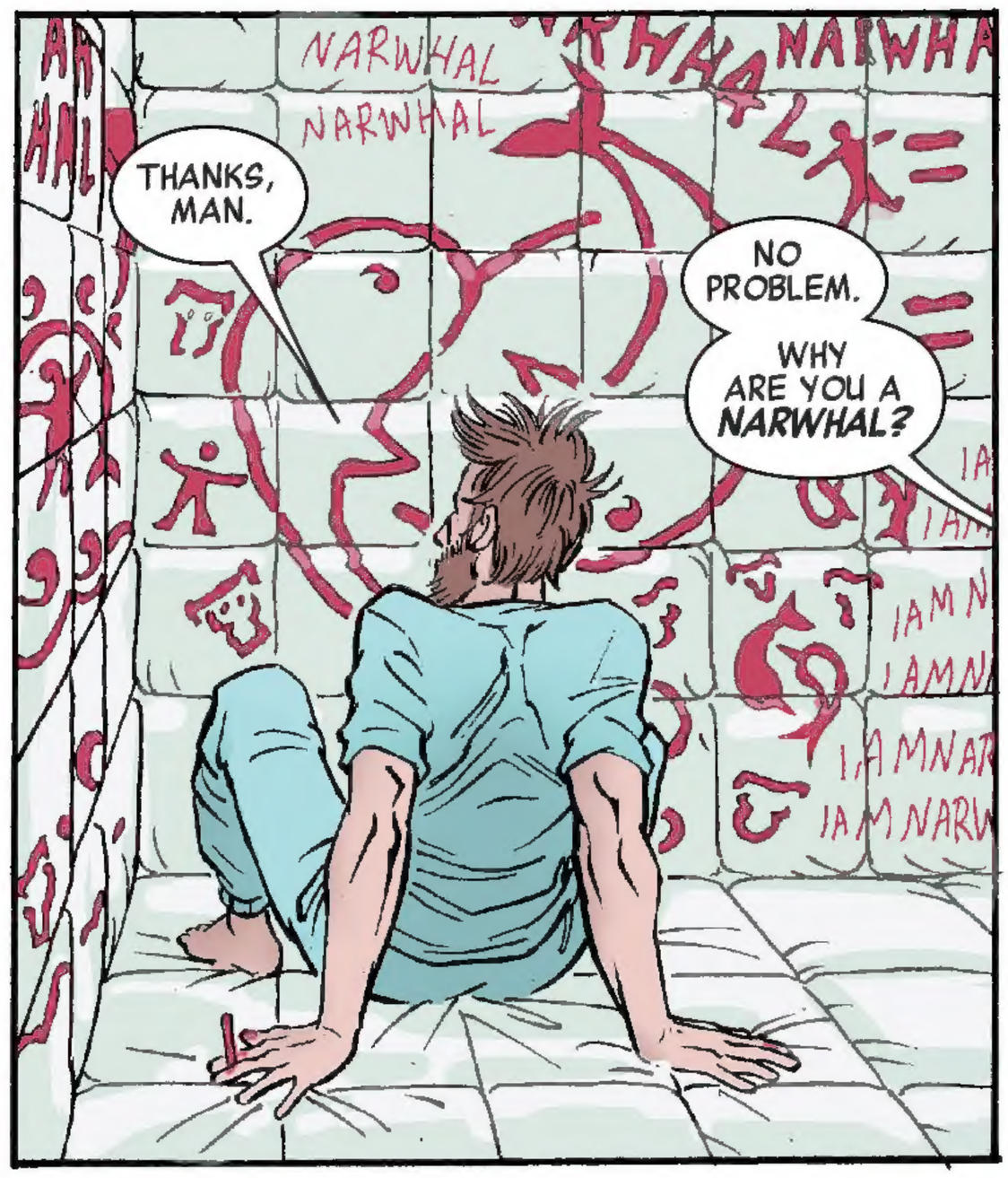

THE 1990s WAS THE GOLDEN ERA WHEN PSYCHOLOGY INVADED POP CULTURE TO THE POINT THAT EVERYONE HAD A DISORDER OR A MIXED-UP CHILDHOOD TO PUT THEIR LIVES IN CONTEXT.
HECK, EVEN THE *PRESIDENT* GOT AWAY WITH DOING WEIRD SEX STUFF BECAUSE, WELL, HE WAS A GOOD GUY WITH "ISSUES."

THE MOST POPULAR BAND IN THE WORLD PLAYED EAR-SHREDDING PUNK ROCK, INSPIRING A WHOLE GENERATION TO QUESTION THEIR UPBRINGING.


EVEN COMEDY FOLLOWED SUIT. SITCOMS ABOUT NE'ER-DO-WELLS REPLACED THE SYNTHETIC CORNBALL OF YESTERYEAR.
IF I WAS KNOCKING ABOUT BACK THEN, THE THINGS I DID MIGHT HAVE SEEMED AMUSING. LOVEABLE. AS A SHRINK, I MIGHT HAVE ENDED UP A MILLIONAIRE.
BUT LIKE I SAID...
Tom's

LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
GREG HAS AN INTERESTING DAY AT THE HOSPITAL.
...I WAS TIED UP AT THE TIME.
I AM NARWHAL
NARWHAL
IAMNARWHAL

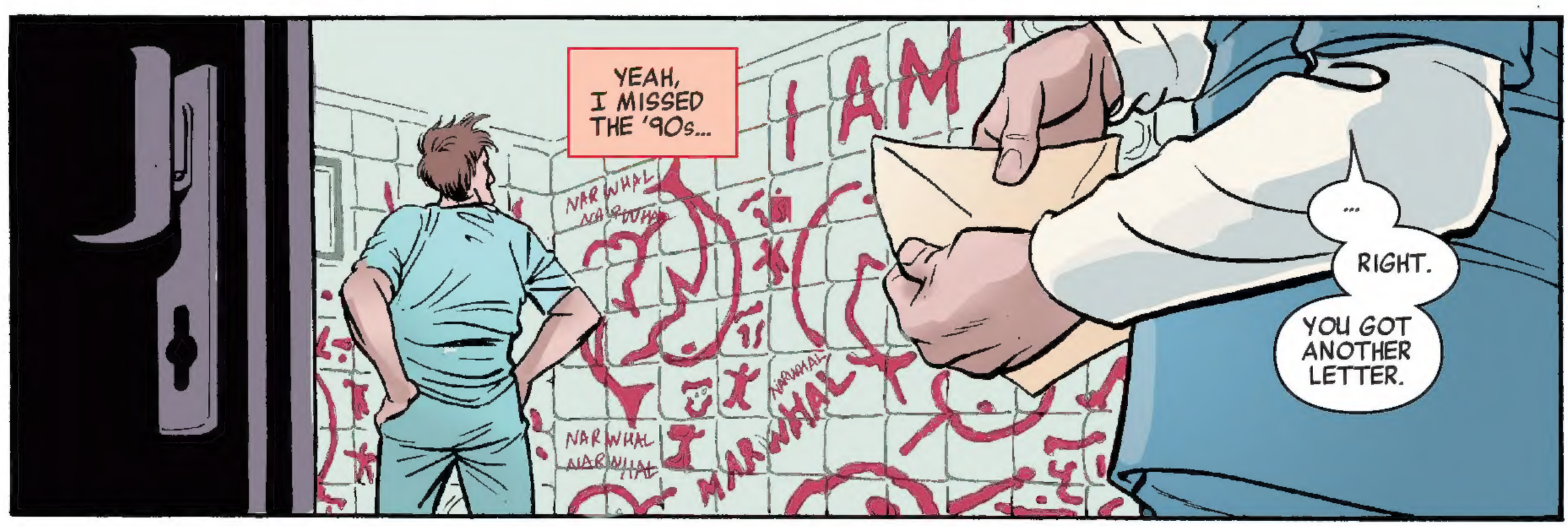
HEY GREG.
CHARLIE.
I SEE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON YOUR ART.
LOOKING GOOD.

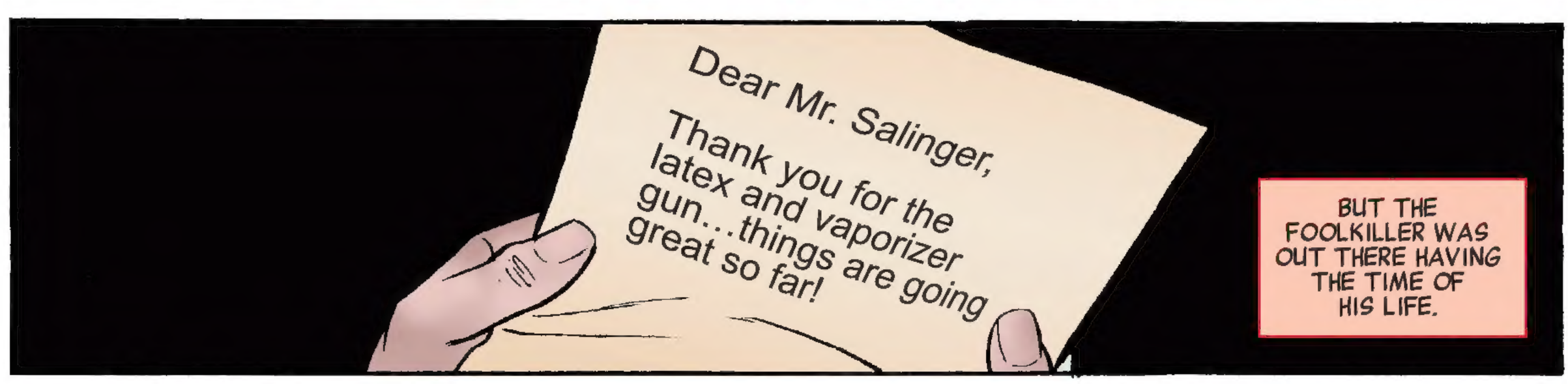

THANKS, MAN.
NO PROBLEM.
WHY ARE YOU A NARWHAL?

WELL, MOST PEOPLE WOULD LABEL ME A FREAK.
IT'S NOT REALLY NORMAL, IS IT?
BEING THE KIND OF GUY WHO RUNS AROUND KILLING CRIMINALS AND RECITING WEIRD LITTLE SONNETS?
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE, GREG.

BUT BEING HERE...LEARNING ABOUT MY MIND AND EXPERIENCING THE KINDNESS OF DOCTORS AND STAFF LIKE YOURSELF... I'VE COME TO REALIZE MY PAST DOESN'T MAKE ME A FREAK.
IT MAKES ME SPECIAL. A UNIQUE CREATURE.

...LIKE A NARWHAL.

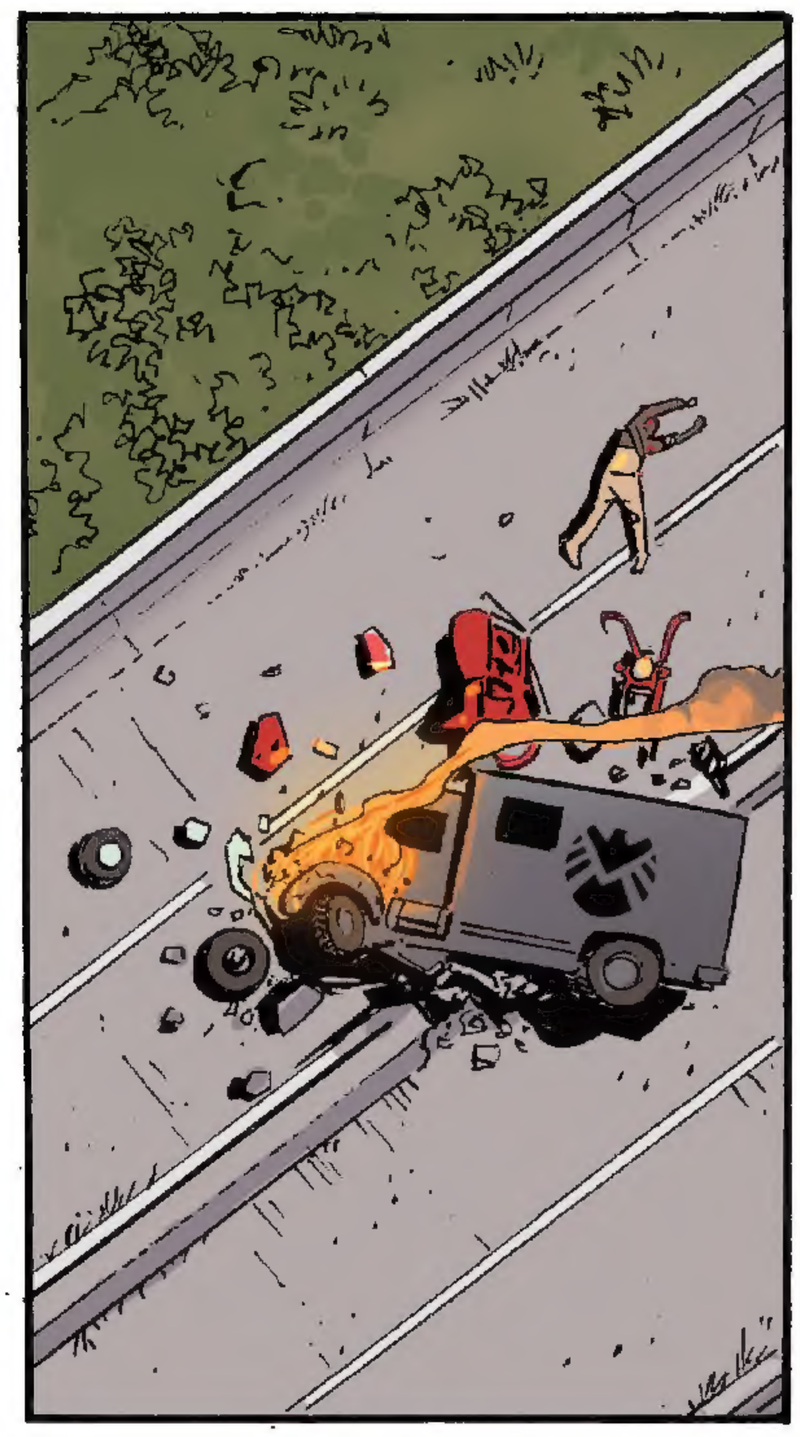

YEAH, I MISSED THE '90s...
I AM
...
RIGHT.
YOU GOT ANOTHER LETTER.

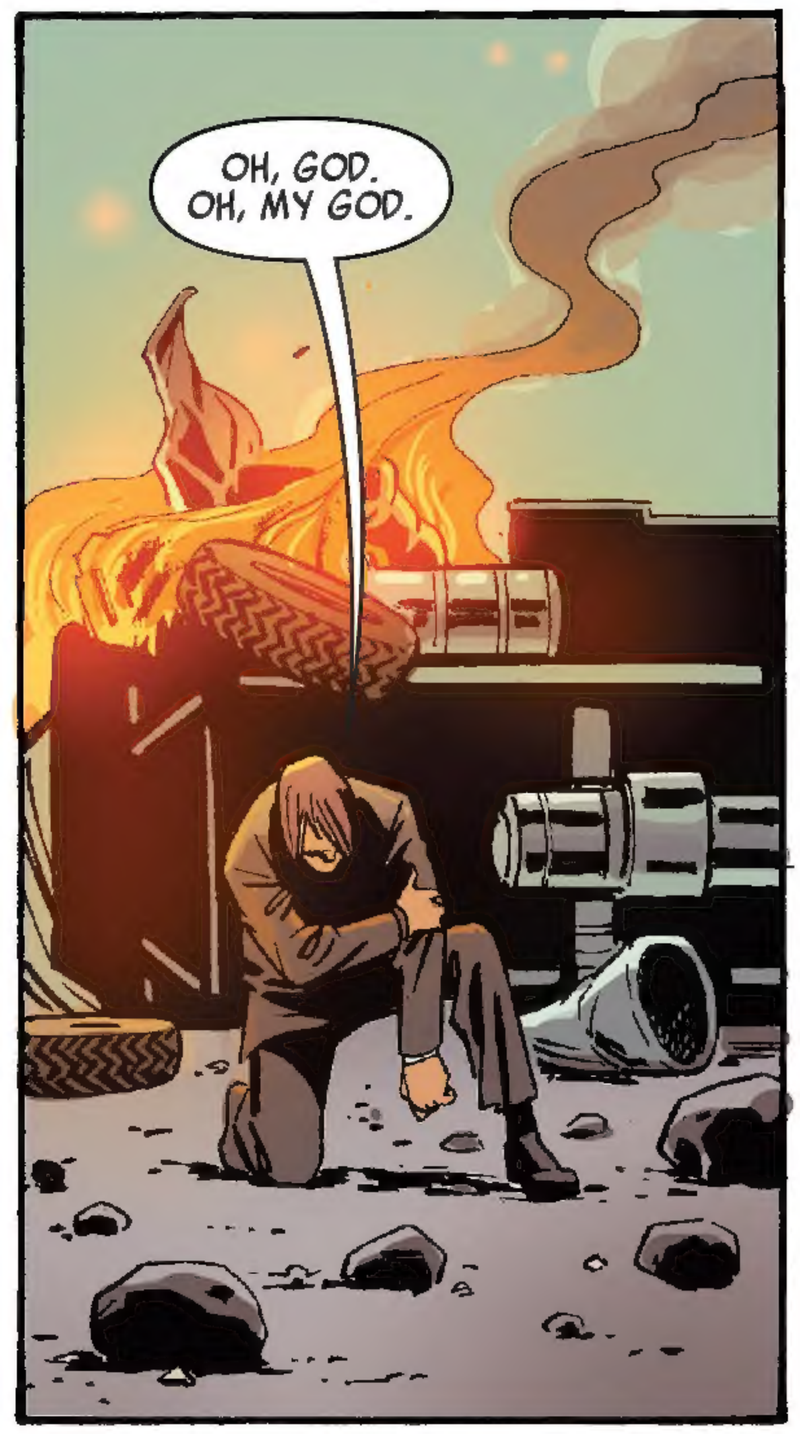

Dear Mr. Salinger,
Thank you for the latex and vaporizer gun...things are going great so far!
BUT THE FOOLKILLER WAS OUT THERE HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE.

NOW.
SOME GUY ENJOYING A RIDE ON HIS HOG.
INTERRUPTED.

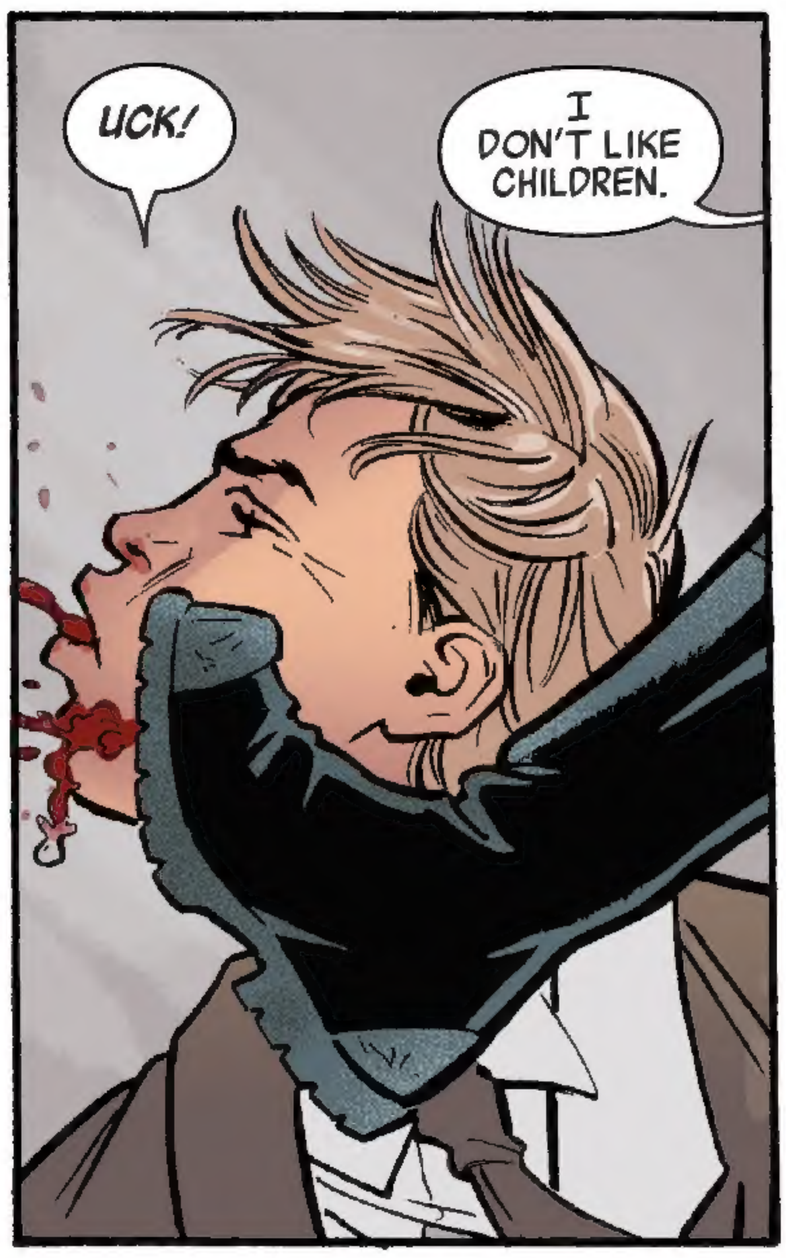
HUH?

AAAGH!

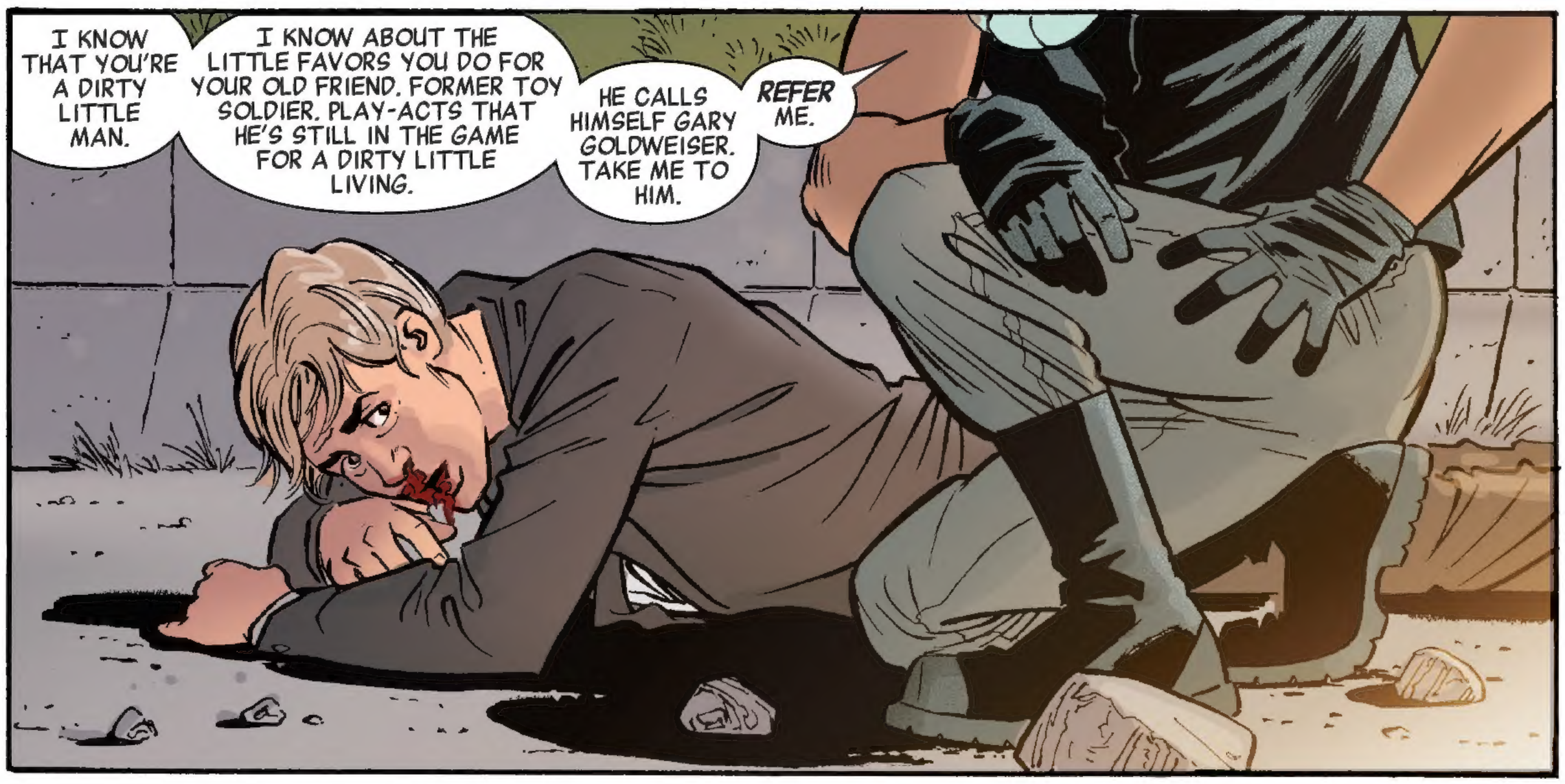




I HAVE LITTLE CHILDREN.
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME.


UCK!
I DON'T LIKE CHILDREN.

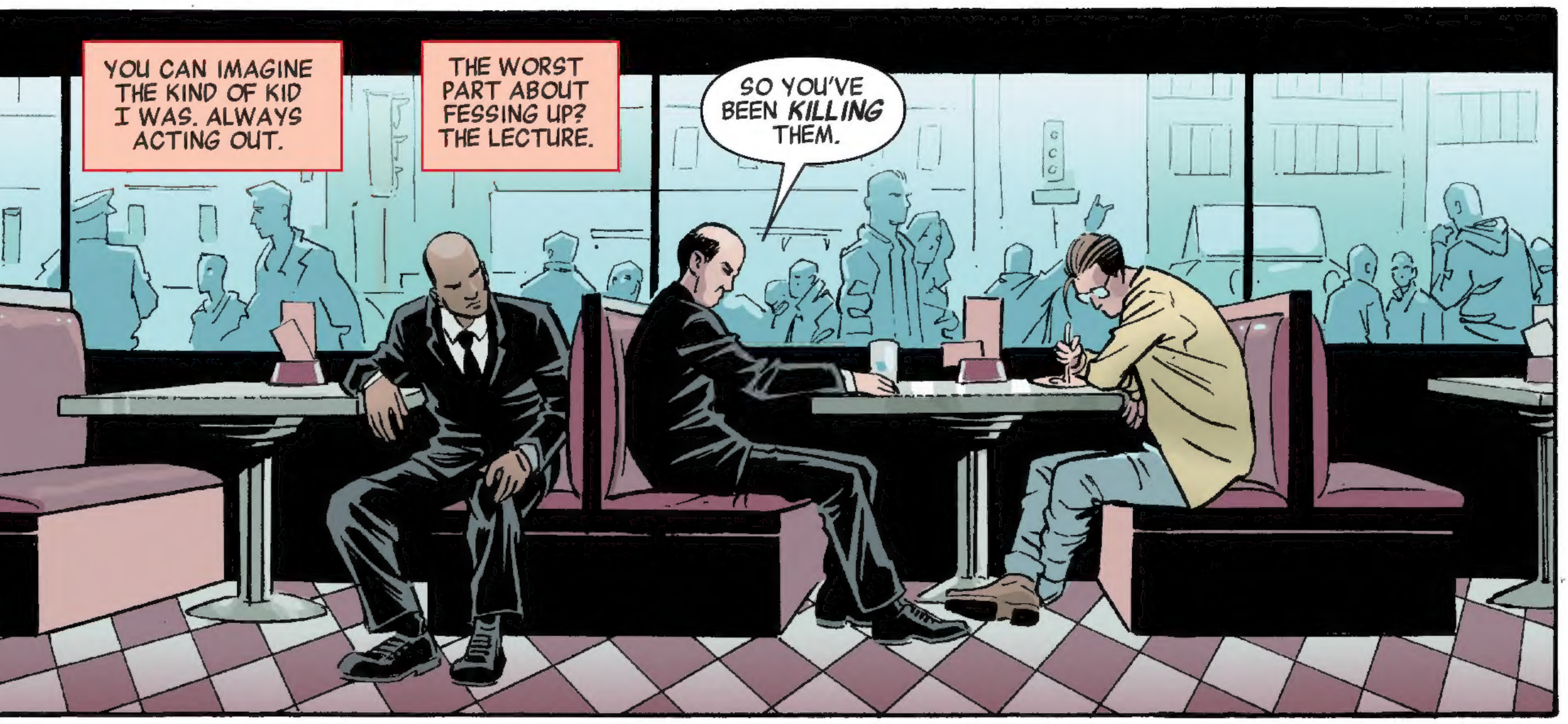
AND I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU. YOU'RE SILLY.
UGH...THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT?!?!?
I'LL SAY THE ACCIDENT WAS MY FAULT AND YOU ESCAPED-- ANYTHING! JUST GO!


I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A DIRTY LITTLE MAN.
I KNOW ABOUT THE LITTLE FAVORS YOU DO FOR YOUR OLD FRIEND. FORMER TOY SOLDIER. PLAY-ACTS THAT HE'S STILL IN THE GAME FOR A DIRTY LITTLE LIVING.
HE CALLS HIMSELF GARY GOLDWEISER. TAKE ME TO HIM.
REFER ME.

THERE ARE MANY MEN WHO WANT TO SEE ME DEAD.
IT WOULD BE WISE FOR HIM TO KNOW THIS, AND VERY UNWISE FOR YOU TO TELL HIM ANYTHING BESIDES THAT FACT. OR I MAY DO BAD THINGS TO YOUR LITTLE CHILDREN.
YOU'VE NOW SEEN WHAT I CAN DO.
OKAY... I CAN DO IT. I CAN DO THAT.
BUT... WHY?

CAN'T YOU TELL?

I NEED THERAPY.


YOU CAN IMAGINE THE KIND OF KID I WAS. ALWAYS ACTING OUT.
THE WORST PART ABOUT FESSING UP? THE LECTURE.
SO YOU'VE BEEN *KILLING* THEM.

YEAH, GARY...I HAVE.
BUT NOT IN A GROSS WAY. IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE *LOST IT* OR ANYTHING.

YOU REALIZE THIS ISN'T WHAT WE SIGNED YOU UP FOR.
I KNOW... I KNOW...

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS JOB, THIS PATH, HAS MEANT FOR ME.
I CAN STOP. I KNOW I CAN. I'M BEGGING YOU NOT TO...

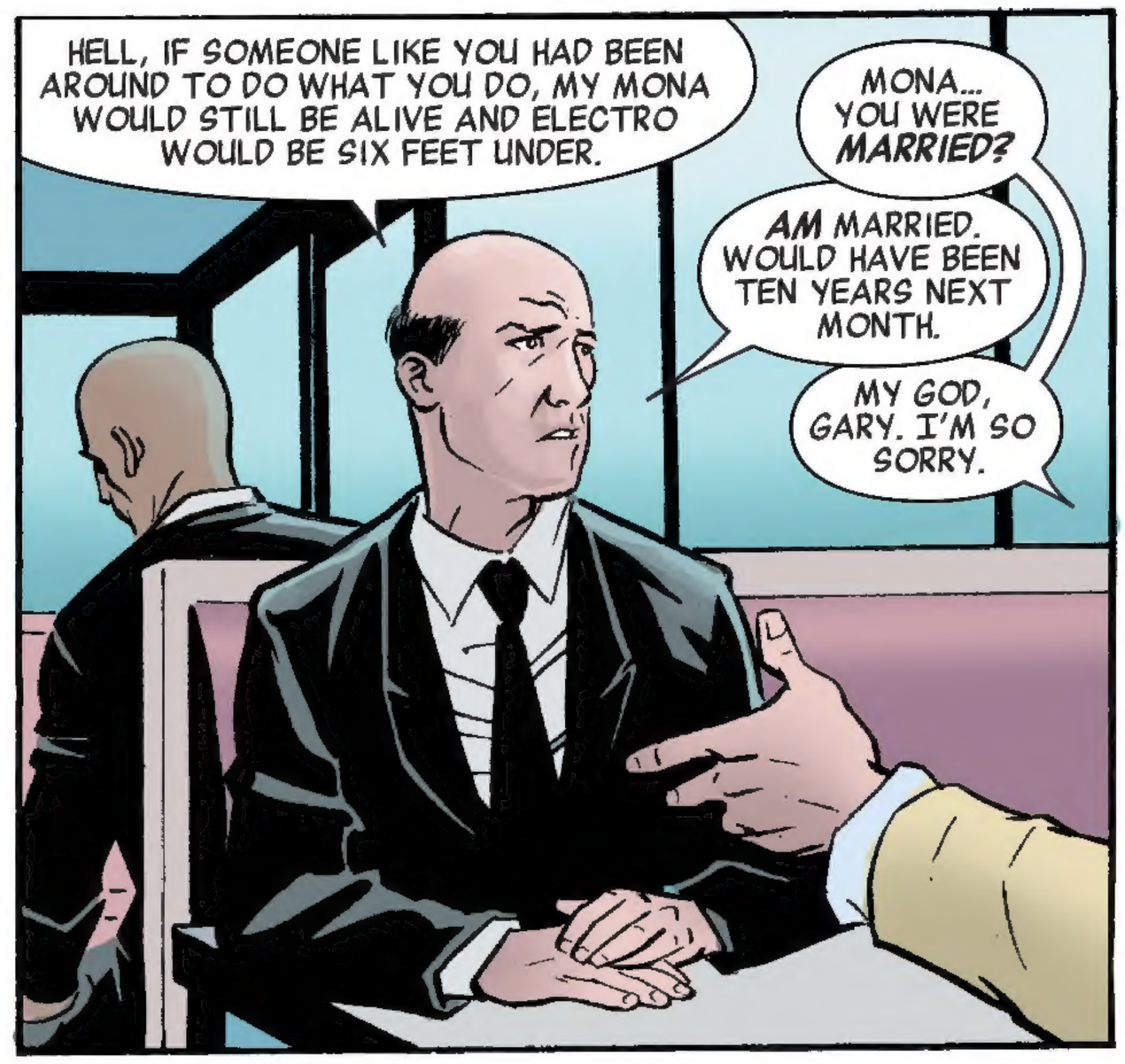
YOU'RE TOUCHING ME.
I'M SORRY. YOU JUST HAVE A PATERNAL AIR ABOUT YOU, GARY, YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT...
GREG...

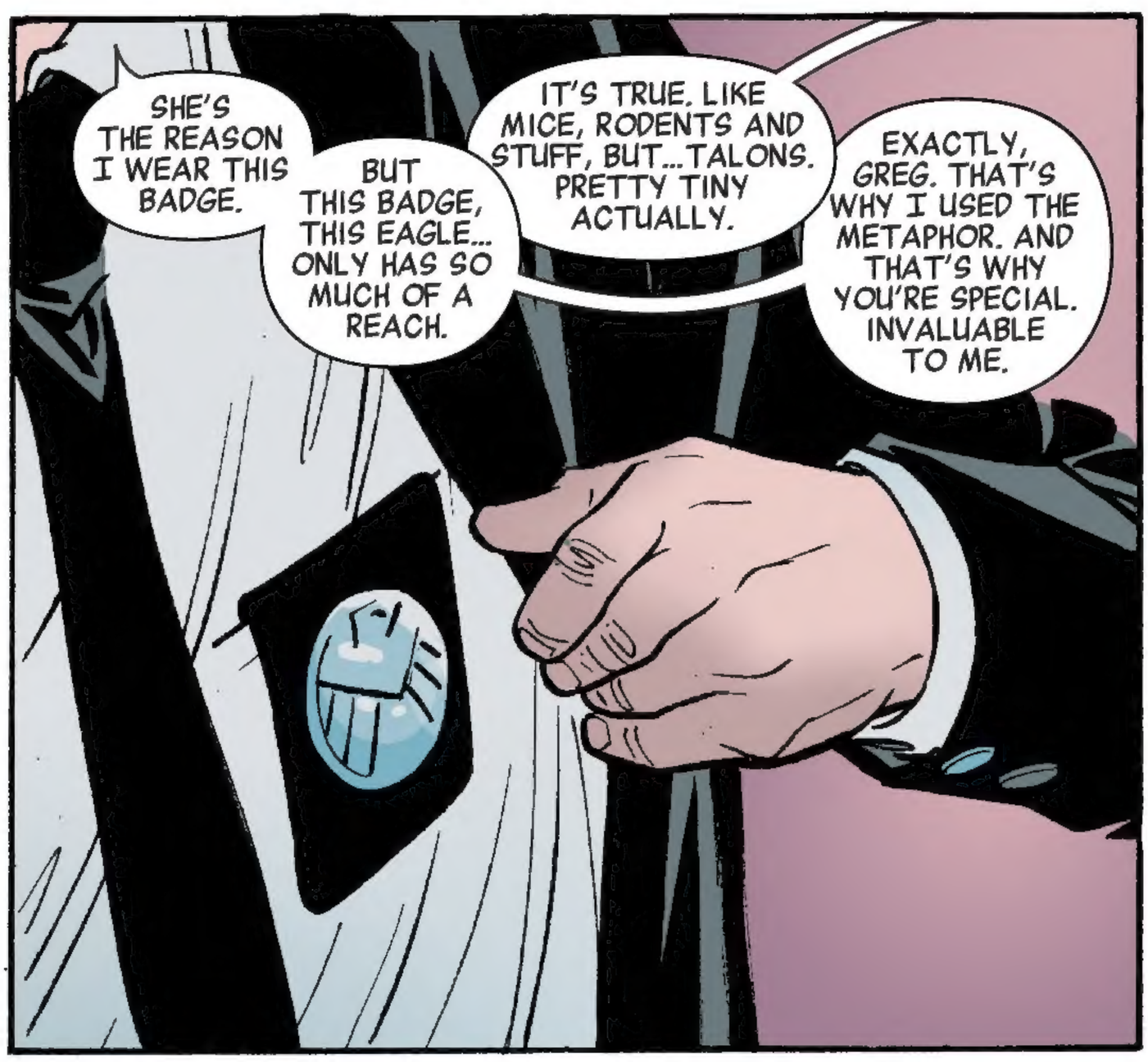
...YOU'VE BEEN PSYCHOANALYZING BAD GUYS JUST TO MURDER THEM IF THEY CAN'T REFORM?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I *THINK* OF THAT KIND OF CHICANERY?

IT'S #@$% BRILLIANT.
SLAM

IT IS?
IT COULDN'T BE ANY MORE EFFECTIVE IF I HAD COMPLETELY THOUGHT OF IT MYSELF.
HEH...

EHEM... =COUGH=...
LOOK, GREG, YOU KNOW THE SCORE.
YOU AND CASTLE AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED RASH AND PSYCHOPATHIC BACK IN THE DAY, BUT WE LIVE IN A POST-DEXTER WORLD.


HELL, IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAD BEEN AROUND TO DO WHAT YOU DO, MY MONA WOULD STILL BE ALIVE AND ELECTRO WOULD BE SIX FEET UNDER.
MONA... YOU WERE MARRIED?
AM MARRIED. WOULD HAVE BEEN TEN YEARS NEXT MONTH.
MY GOD, GARY. I'M SO SORRY.


SHE'S THE REASON I WEAR THIS BADGE.
BUT THIS BADGE, THIS EAGLE... ONLY HAS SO MUCH OF A REACH.
IT'S TRUE. LIKE MICE, RODENTS AND STUFF, BUT...TALONS. PRETTY TINY ACTUALLY.
EXACTLY, GREG. THAT'S WHY I USED THE METAPHOR. AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SPECIAL. INVALUABLE TO ME.

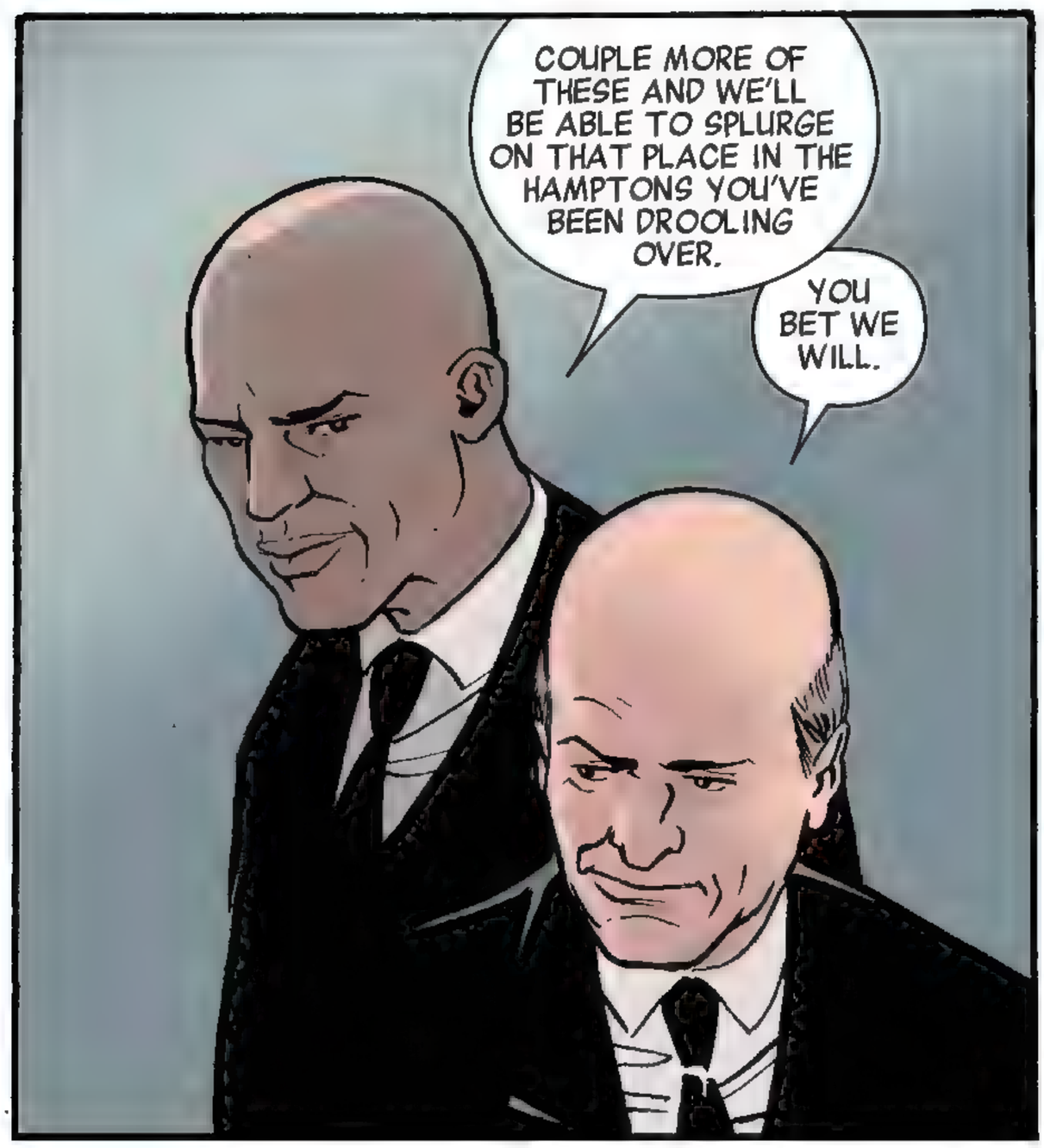
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP THIS ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN US, I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T HOLD ON TO YOUR HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
EVEN IF I...NEVER WILL.

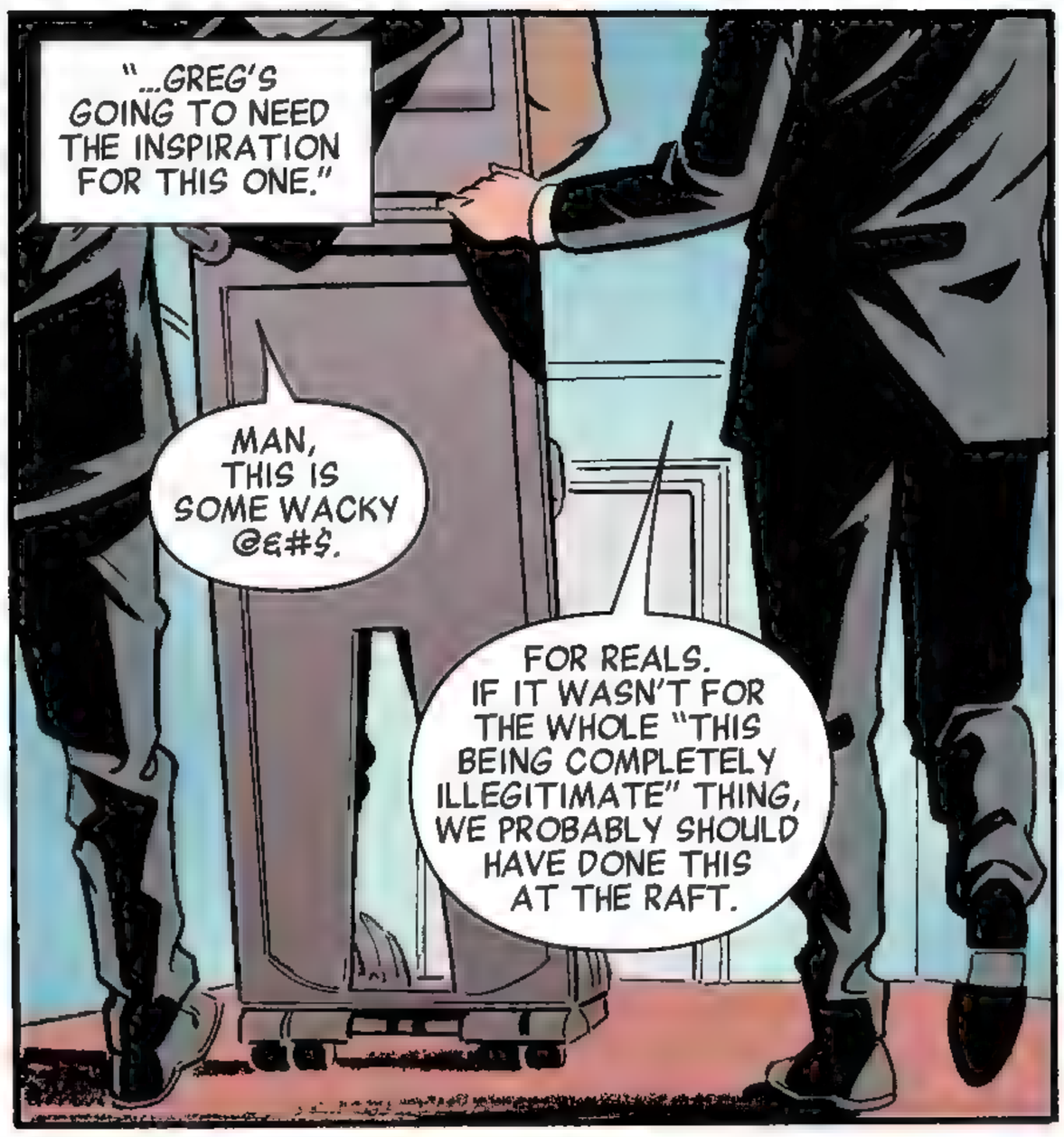
I KNEW GARY WAS A GREAT GUY. I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A *HERO.*

I'M REFRESHED AND READY TO GET BACK TO WORK.

THANKS FOR LUNCH, GARY...FOR EVERYTHING.

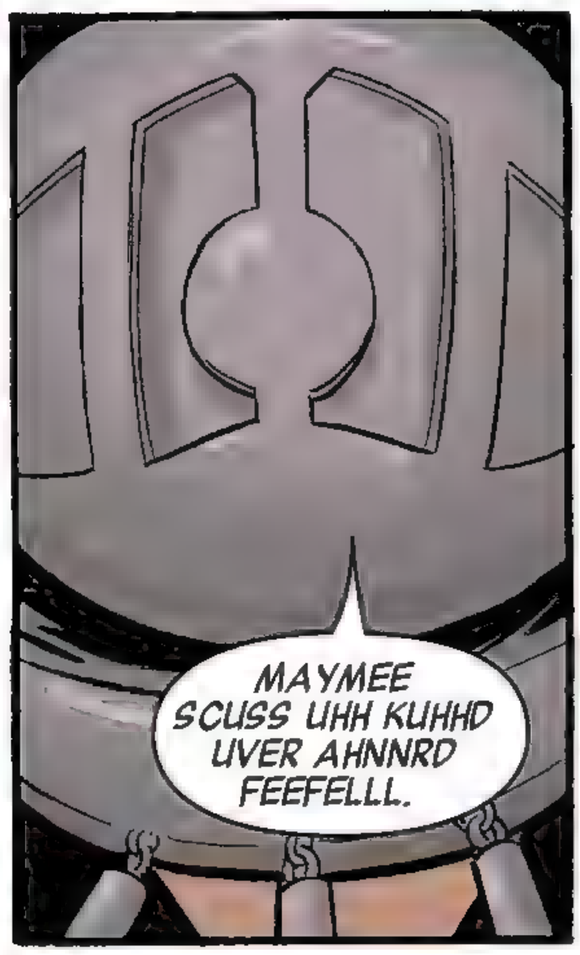
I WON'T YOU LET YOU DOWN!




"...GREG'S GOING TO NEED THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS ONE."
MAN, THIS IS SOME WACKY @&#$.
FOR REALS. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE WHOLE "THIS BEING COMPLETELY ILLEGITIMATE" THING, WE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS AT THE RAFT.

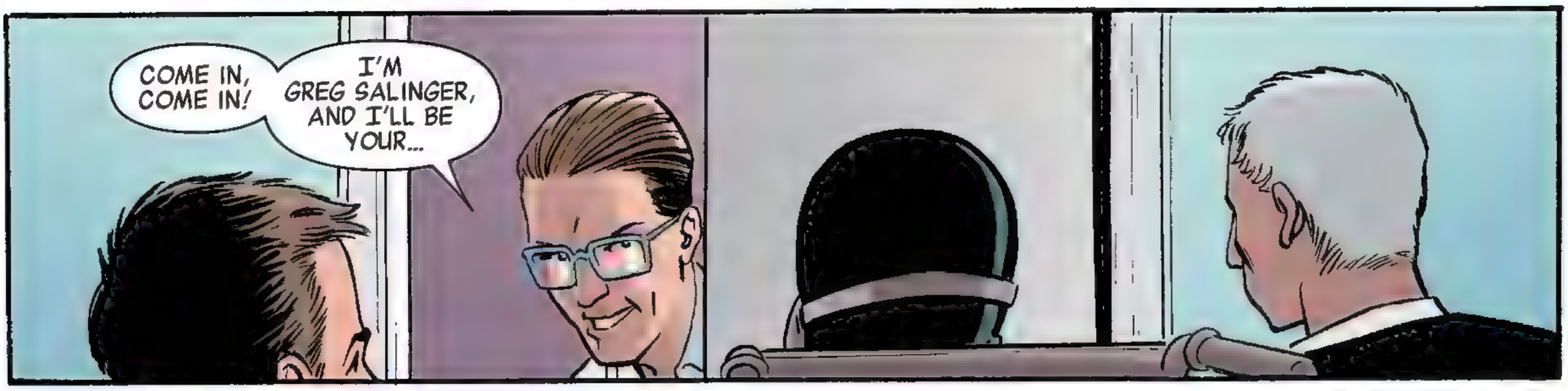
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME...
DON'T WORRY, MA'AM. WE WORK FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.
YOU KNOW, THE SUPER-HERO-IMBROGLIO-ENABLING LAW-DUDES?

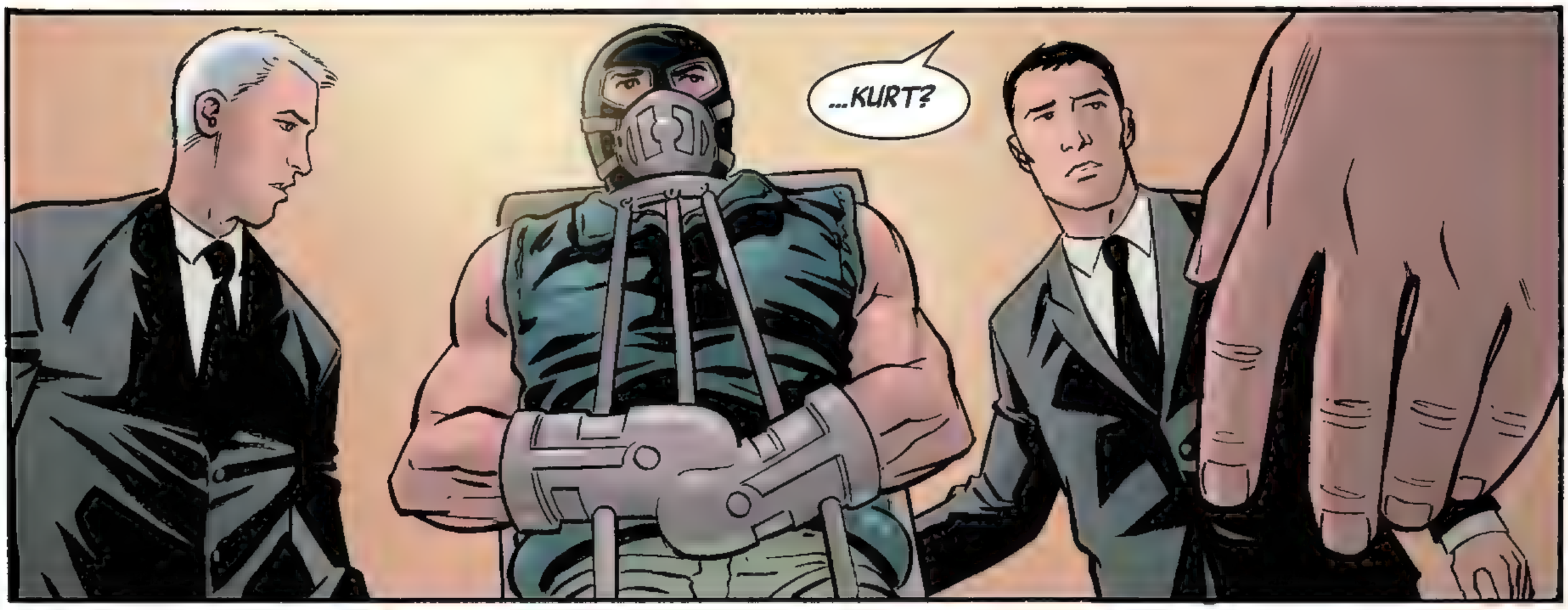
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THE WHOLE ANTHONY HOPKINS LOOK?
I MEAN, THIS GUY TURNED HIMSELF IN. HE PROBABLY JUST WANTS TO LOOK SCARY.


MAYMEE SCUSS UHH KUHHD UVER AHNNRD FEEFELLL.

YEAH, YEAH, CRAZY. KEEP ON SPOUTING YOUR PSYCHO-GIBBERISH.
HE SAID "MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'VE KILLED OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE."

ISSS TROO.

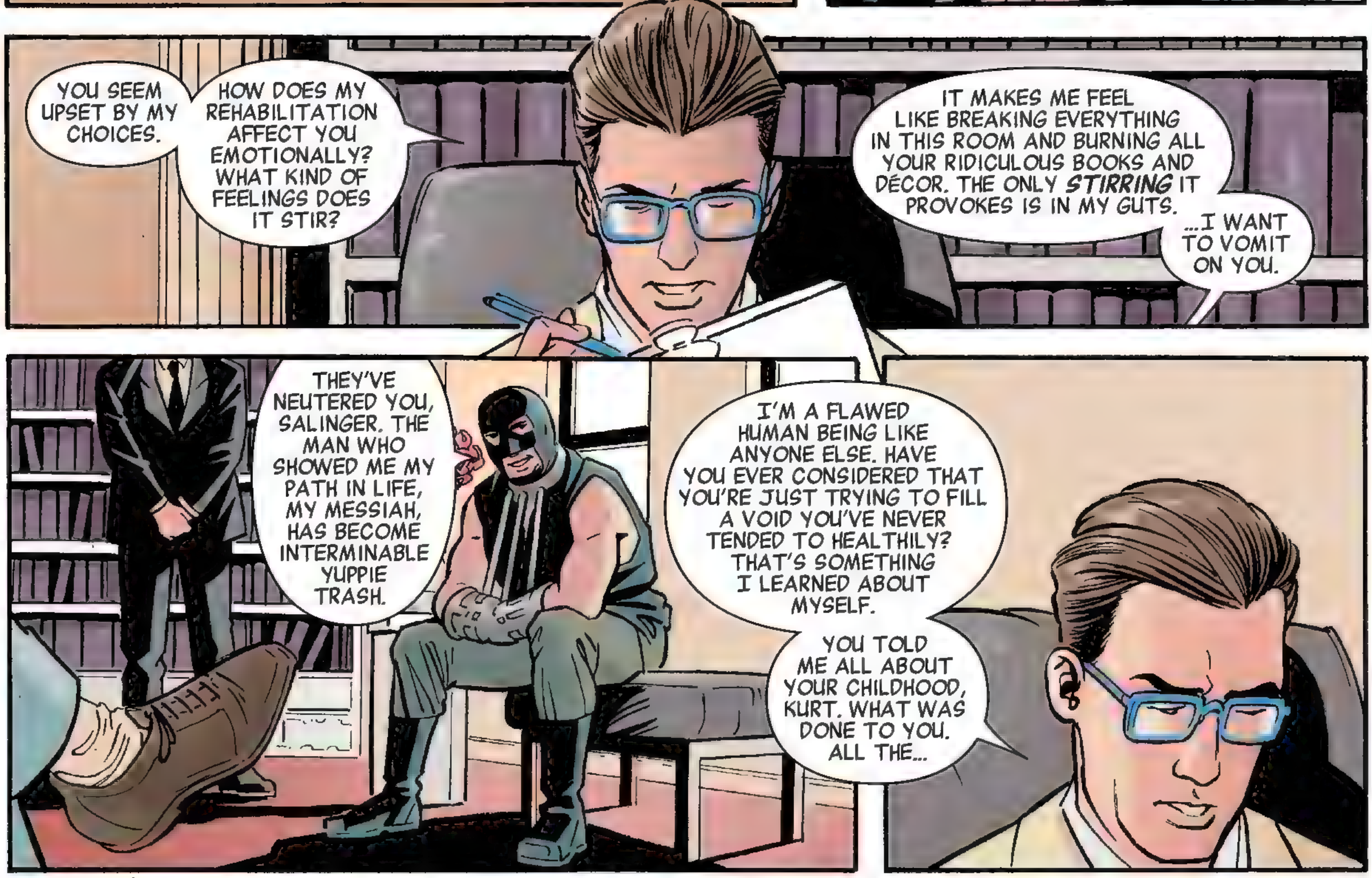

COME IN, COME IN!
I'M GREG SALINGER, AND I'LL BE YOUR...


...KURT?

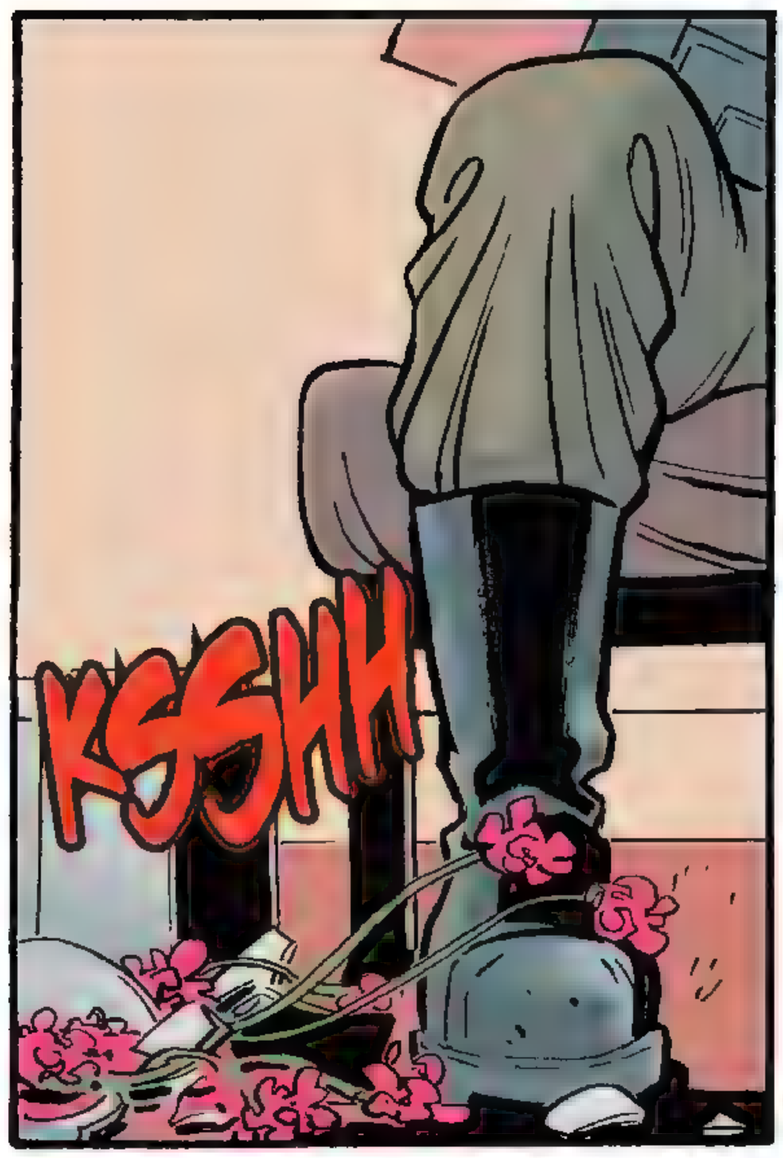
KURT. MY GOD.
I CAN SEE YOU'VE STILL GOT THAT WHOLE S&M DADDY THING GOING ON...
HOW... WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

NOTHING REALLY, GREG.
THEY PUT ME IN THE RAFT. BROKE OUT. WENT BACK TO TORTURING AND KILLING.
THEN THEY PUT ME IN CROSSMORE. STARTED A RIOT. BROKE OUT. WENT BACK TO TORTURING AND KILLING.

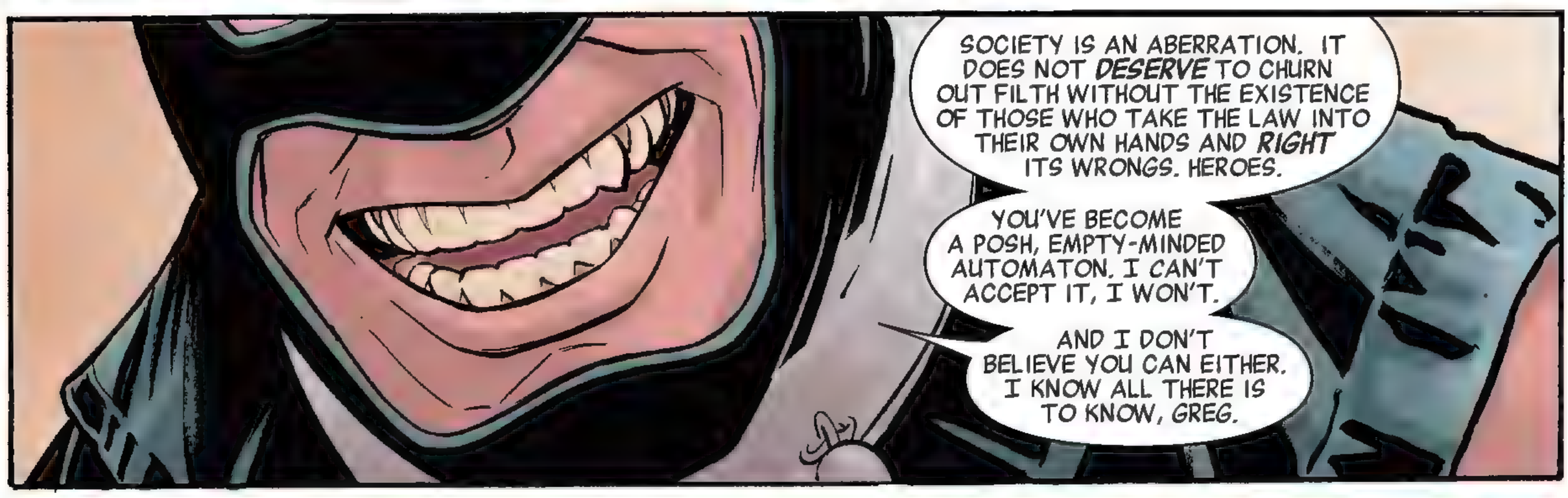
I'M STILL THE MAN YOU MADE ME. I KILL *FOOLISH* PEOPLE.
THE REAL QUESTION IS...WHAT HAPPENED TO *YOU?*


YOU SEEM UPSET BY MY CHOICES.
HOW DOES MY REHABILITATION AFFECT YOU EMOTIONALLY? WHAT KIND OF FEELINGS DOES IT STIR?
IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE BREAKING EVERYTHING IN THIS ROOM AND BURNING ALL YOUR RIDICULOUS BOOKS AND DÉCOR. THE ONLY *STIRRING* IT PROVOKES IS IN MY GUTS.
...I WANT TO VOMIT ON YOU.
THEY'VE NEUTERED YOU, SALINGER. THE MAN WHO SHOWED ME MY PATH IN LIFE, MY MESSIAH, HAS BECOME INTERMINABLE YUPPIE TRASH.
I'M A FLAWED HUMAN BEING LIKE ANYONE ELSE. HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THAT YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO FILL A VOID YOU'VE NEVER TENDED TO HEALTHILY? THAT'S SOMETHING I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF.
YOU TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD, KURT. WHAT WAS DONE TO YOU. ALL THE...

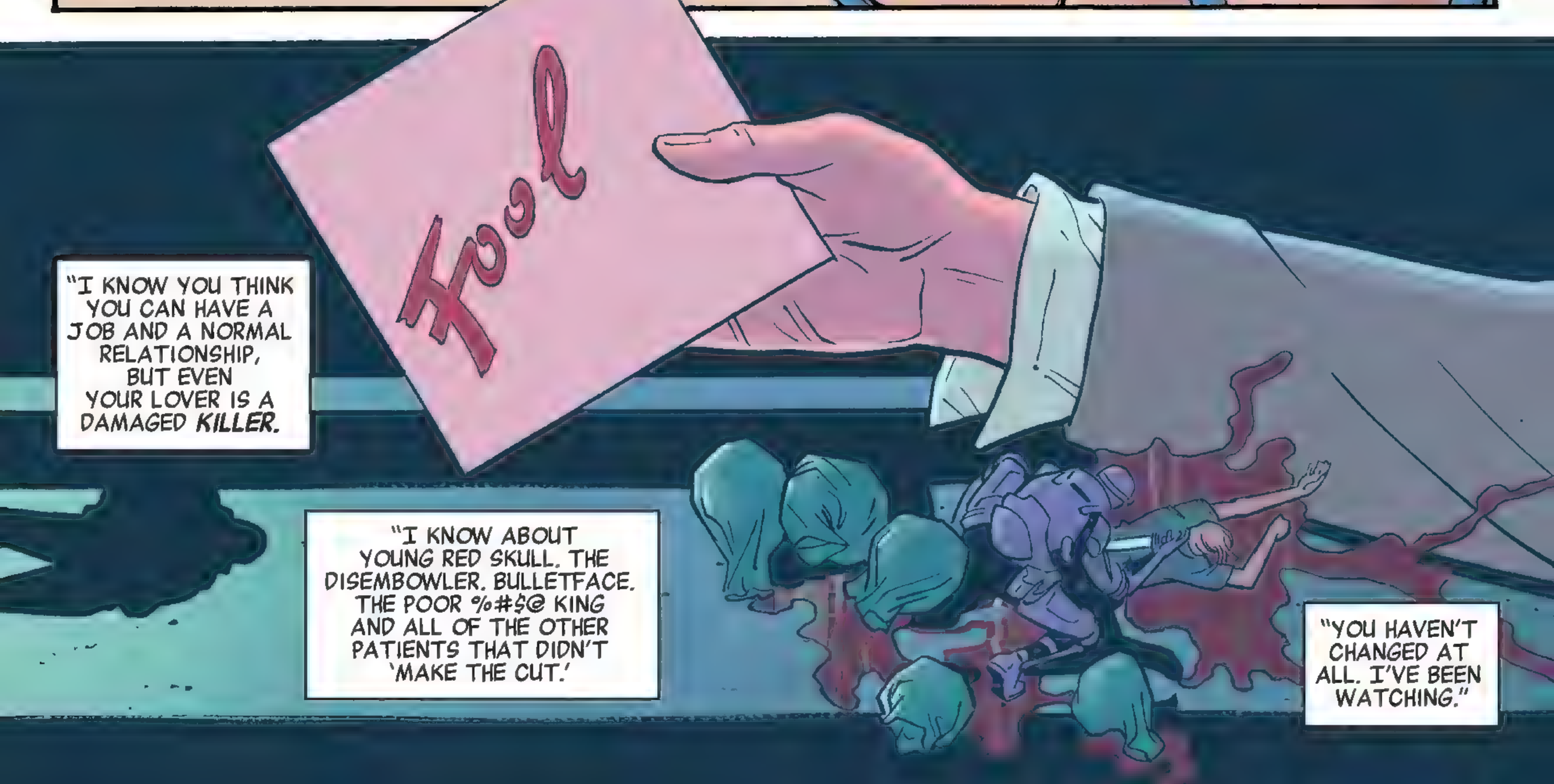
WHAM

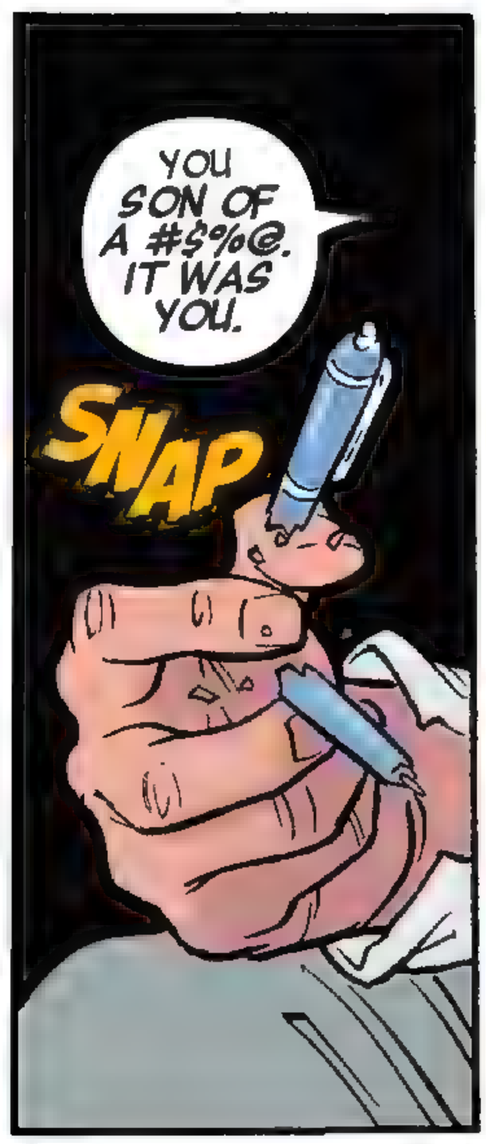

KSSHH

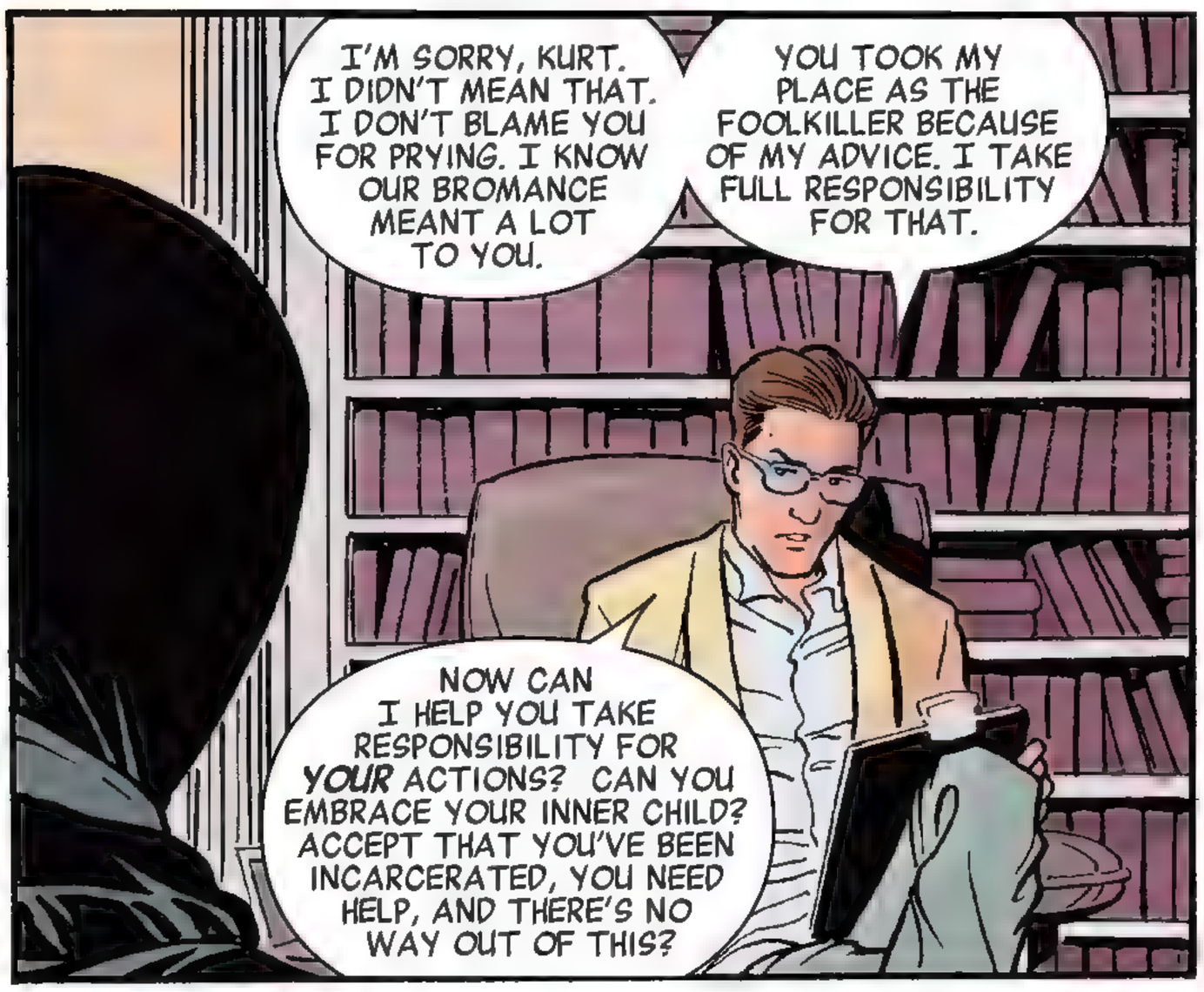
...THAT WAS VINTAGE, KURT.


SOCIETY IS AN ABERRATION. IT DOES NOT *DESERVE* TO CHURN OUT FILTH WITHOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THOSE WHO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS AND *RIGHT* ITS WRONGS. HEROES.
YOU'VE BECOME A POSH, EMPTY-MINDED AUTOMATON. I CAN'T ACCEPT IT, I WON'T.
AND I DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN EITHER. I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW, GREG.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KURT?


"I KNOW YOU THINK YOU CAN HAVE A JOB AND A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP, BUT EVEN YOUR LOVER IS A DAMAGED *KILLER.*
"I KNOW ABOUT YOUNG RED SKULL. THE DISEMBOWLER. BULLETFACE. THE POOR %#$@ KING AND ALL OF THE OTHER PATIENTS THAT DIDN'T 'MAKE THE CUT.'
"YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL. I'VE BEEN WATCHING."





I'M ALSO FAMILIAR WITH THE MAKINGS OF MOST RESTRAINTS AND COULD HAVE REMOVED THEM AT ANY POINT.

SEE?

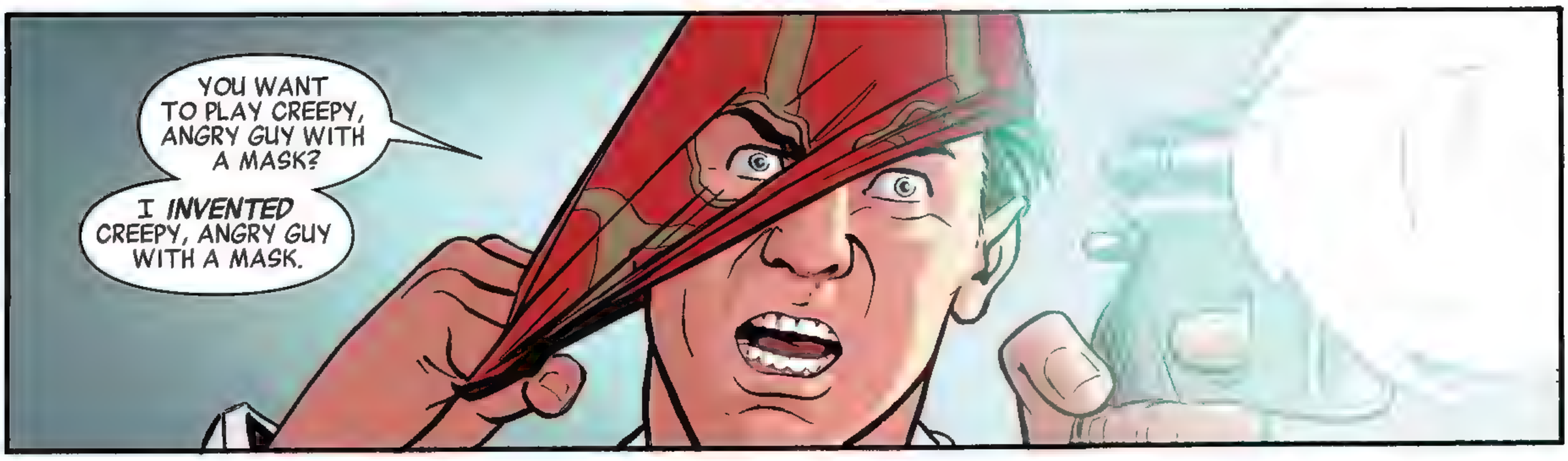
DON'T COME NEAR ME--

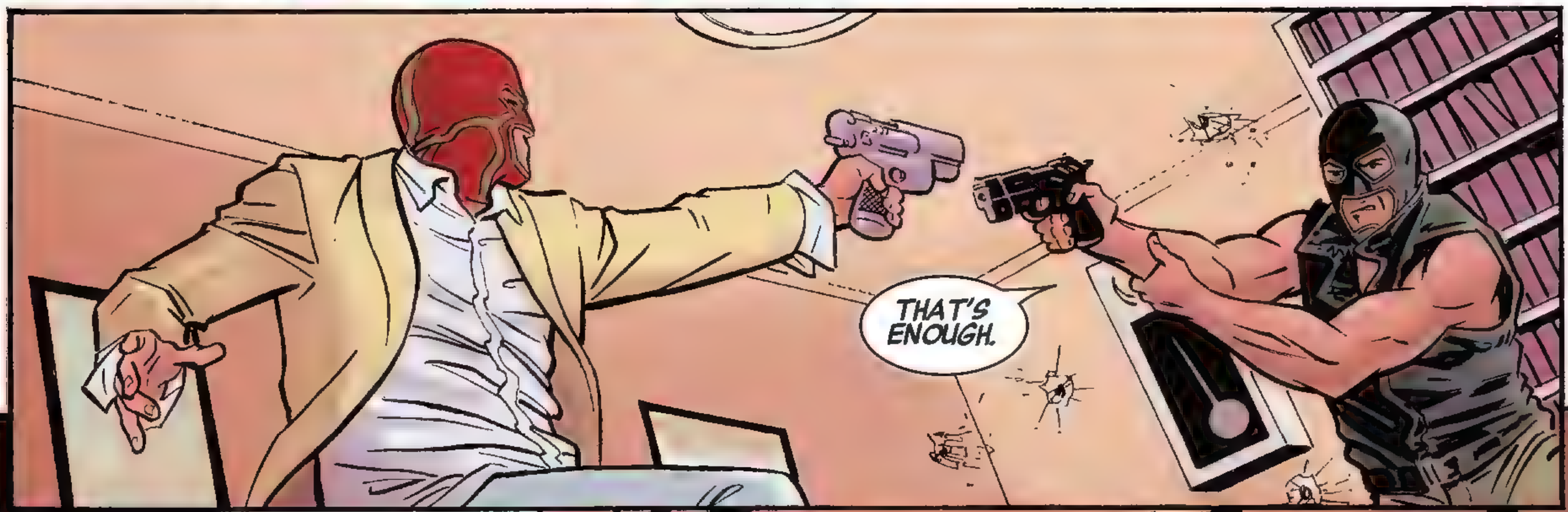
AGHHHHHH!
WAKE UP, GREG. IT'S TIME FOR A RECKONING.
I'M GOING TO HURT HER. END HER. I'M GOING TO END THIS IMPOTENT ATTEMPT AT REDEMPTION AND BRING THE REAL GREG BACK.
WAKE UP.

I DIDN'T... WANT...TO HAVE TO DO THIS.
NOT TO YOU, KURT...

HEH. DO WHAT?

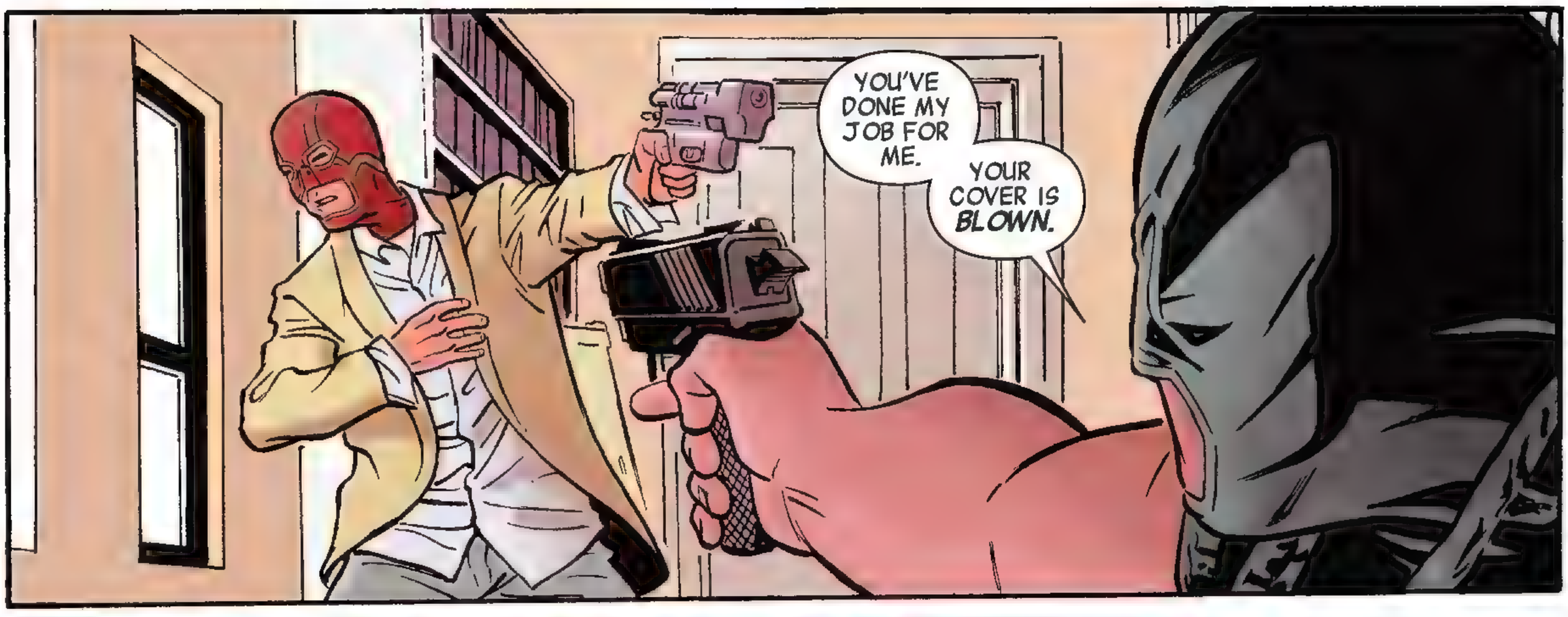
THIS.

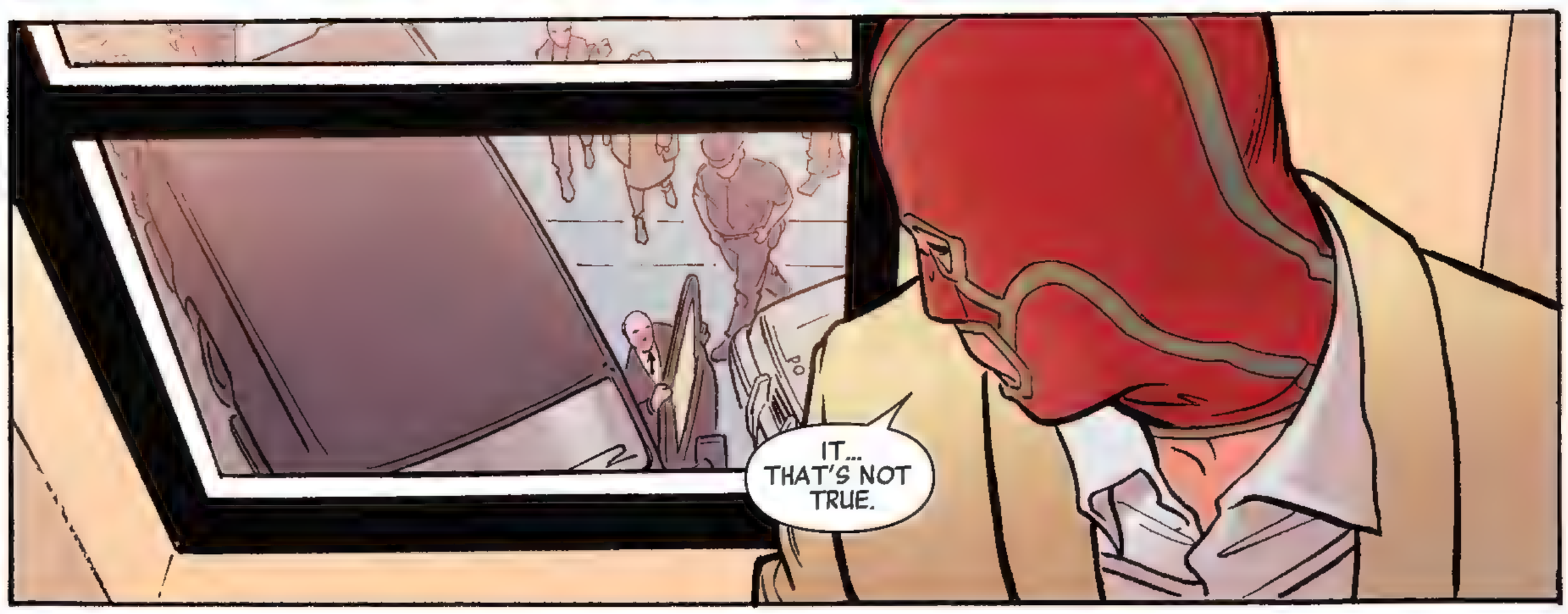




I DOUBT THE NEIGHBORS ARE GOING TO OVERLOOK THIS LITTLE FORAY INTO JOHN WOO TERRITORY.

NYPD POLICE POLICE


YOU'VE DONE MY JOB FOR ME.
YOUR COVER IS BLOWN.

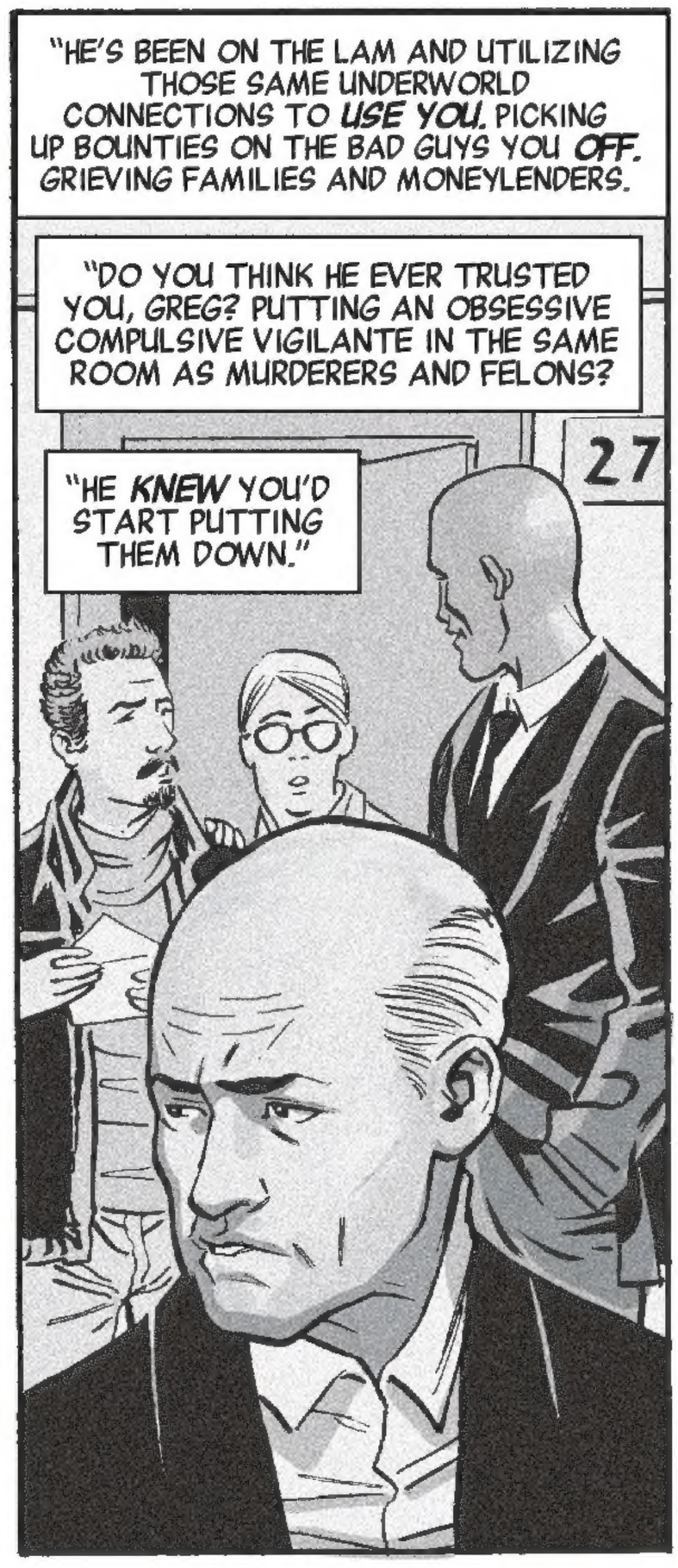

IT... THAT'S NOT TRUE.

GARY'S HERE. HE'S GOING TO SORT THIS ALL OUT.
HE CARES ABOUT ME.

GARY?!
YOUR GOOD OL' BENEFACTOR.
LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE MAN YOU KNOW AS GARY.

"HE DOESN'T WORK FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. ANYMORE, GREG.
"HIS NAME ISN'T EVEN GARY.

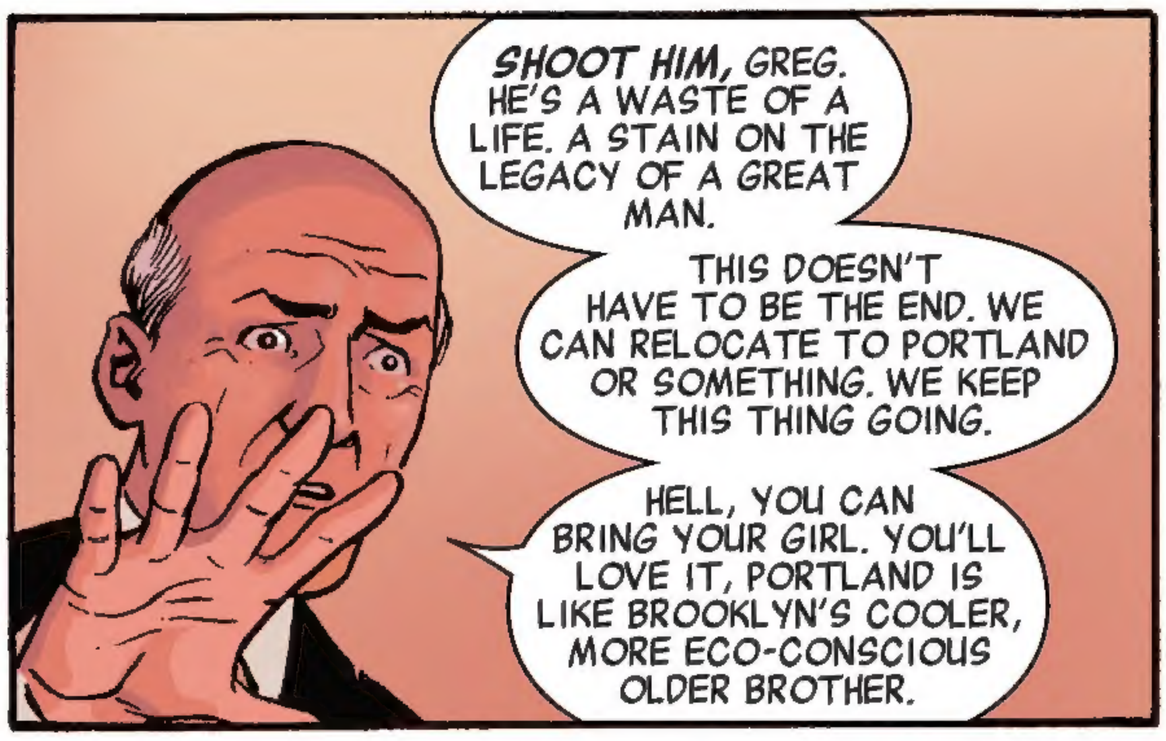
"HE'S A CORRUPT ROGUE AGENT NAMED STANLEY SWICKLE.
"HE WAS DISMISSED FOR USING HIS CONNECTIONS TO GET IN DEEP WITH THE SUPER VILLAIN CROWD HE WAS MEANT TO APPREHEND.


"HE'S BEEN ON THE LAM AND UTILIZING THOSE SAME UNDERWORLD CONNECTIONS TO *USE YOU.* PICKING UP BOUNTIES ON THE BAD GUYS YOU *OFF.* GRIEVING FAMILIES AND MONEYLENDERS.
"DO YOU THINK HE EVER TRUSTED YOU, GREG? PUTTING AN OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE VIGILANTE IN THE SAME ROOM AS MURDERERS AND FELONS?
"HE *KNEW* YOU'D START PUTTING THEM DOWN."
27

THAT CAN'T BE... GARY'S THE MAN!
GREG, WHAT THE @#$% IS HAPPENING HERE?

GARY...WHAT THE HELL! HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING!
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?!?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND!

YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO HIM, GREG. HE'S A PSYCHOPATH AND A LIAR. YOU KNOW THAT.
THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING I SHARED WITH YOU. THINK ABOUT MONA!
THERE IS NO @#$% MONA...
SHUT UP, FREAK!


SHOOT HIM, GREG. HE'S A WASTE OF A LIFE. A STAIN ON THE LEGACY OF A GREAT MAN.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THE END. WE CAN RELOCATE TO PORTLAND OR SOMETHING. WE KEEP THIS THING GOING.
HELL, YOU CAN BRING YOUR GIRL. YOU'LL LOVE IT, PORTLAND IS LIKE BROOKLYN'S COOLER, MORE ECO-CONSCIOUS OLDER BROTHER.

THAT'S IT. I'M GOING TO END YOU, YOU SAD LITTLE HYPOCRITE.
DO IT, GREG!

BLAM
WELL... THAT'S THAT...

...ANYONE ELSE IN NEED OF A BEHAVIORAL *INTERVENTION?*
TO BE CONTINUED!

ZONE